Dock workers to ‘shut it down’

MAY DAY PROTEST OF POLICE KILLINGS

By Clarence Thomas and Cheryl LaBash

On Friday, May 1 — International Workers’ Day — the cranes for loading cargo at the San Francisco and Oakland, Calif., ports will be still. The April meetings of both the Executive Board and the membership of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10 unanimously endorsed a call for “Union Action to Stop Police Killings of Black and Brown People.” A unanimously approved amendment called for the monthly union membership meeting to be held on the May 1 day shift with a march to and rally at Oakland City Hall to demonstrate that the rampant killings by police is an urgent labor issue.

The killing of young Michael Brown by Ferguson, Mo., police on Aug. 9 and the cellphone-ized killing of Eric Garner by New York police on Staten Island galvanized a rainbow movement, led by Black and Brown youth.

Creative and determined protests have interrupted business as usual in streets, highways, shopping malls, restaurants — everywhere. Activists have faced up to tear gas and militarized SWAT (special weapons and tactics) units while chanting “Hands up, don’t shoot.” Union banners and “Fight for $15 and a union” militants hit the streets in St. Louis, but organized labor action has been missing until now, even though the police killings continue.

Walter Scott murder and labor

The New York Times printed pictures on its April 8 front page from video capturing the moment when 50-year-old Walter Scott was shot in the back and killed — murdered — by a white cop in South Carolina. But the article didn’t mention the Scott family relationship with International Longshore Association Local 1422 in Charleston, or that its union hall became a center for organizing the protests that followed.

Ken Riley, an ILA vice president and Local 1422 president, explained in a condolence statement issued by the ILA: “Walter Scott’s brother, Rodney Scott, joined our workforce two years ago. One of Local 1422’s dispatchers, Marion Green, and James Gibbs, a foreman, are all close relatives. The Scott family and the Riley family worshipped together for many years … and remain close.

‘Local 1422 recognizes that we have a social responsibility to our community and we take that responsibility very seriously. That is why Leonard Riley Jr. took the lead and arranged the organizational meeting for the protest at the North Charleston City Hall. He and other members also participated in the rally. Local 1422 will

Continued on page 7

Taxes pay for the U.S. war machine that gobbles up over half the national budget in order to control the global capitalist economy. Due to generous loopholes, Big Oil and Fortune 500 companies like General Electric don’t pay any taxes year after year. And taxes subsidiize billion-dollar merchandisers like Walmart and McDon-ald’s, which pay workers so little they’re forced to rely on government services to keep their families alive. Such a blanket check for the Pentagon while food stamp cuts mean kids go to bed hungry? There is a solution.

Socialism is the only alternative to this rigged system that rewards the rich and oppresses poor and working people, especially Black and Brown youth. Fighting for socialism is the only way to kick the racist, sexist, anti-LGBTQ bosses, bankers and brass into the death of history.

That revolutionary fight is what drives Workers World. So if you appreciate our powerful Marxist analysis and coverage that exposes the 1% while asserting the needs of the 99%, it’s time to invest your tax return in Workers World. Join the WW Supporter Program that was set up 38 years ago to help us publish anti-war, anti-rac- ist, working-class truth and build the many campaigns needed to crush capitalism and usher in socialism. We invite you to sign up today! Write checks to Work-ers World and mail them, with your name and address, to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or donate online at workers.org/donate. And thanks for helping to grow the revolutionary press in the U.S.

WORKERS WORLD PARTY
Who we are & what we’re fighting for

Hate capitalism? Workers World Party fights for a socialist society — where the wealth is socially owned and production is planned to satisfy human need. This outmoded capitalist system is dragging down workers’ living standards while throwing millions out of their jobs. If you’re young, you know they’re stealing your future. And capitalism is threatening the entire planet with its unplanned, profit-driven stranglehold over the sources of production.

Workers built it all — it belongs to society, not to a handful of billionaires! But we need a revolution to make that change. That’s why for 56 years WWP has been building a revolutionary party of the working class inside the belly of the beast. We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism, degradation people because of their nationality, sexu- al orientation or gender identity or disabilities — all are tools the ruling class uses to keep us apart. Ruthlessly super-exploit some in order to better exploit us all. WWP builds unity among all workers while support- ing the right of self-determination. Fighting oppres- sion is a working-class issue, which is confirmed by the workers world’s own history.

WWP has a long history of militant opposition to imperialist wars. The billionaire rulers are bent on turning back the clock to the bad old days before socialist revo- lutions and national liberation struggles liberated terri- tory from their grip. We’ve been in the streets to oppose every one of imperialism’s wars and aggressions.

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Prison profiteers drive detention of immigrants 'execution by neglect'

By Fred Goldstein

April 19 — Worldwide pressure on Pennsylvania officials on behalf of political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal has helped his state's efforts to execute him by medical neglect. Yet the struggle must continue to assure that Mumia receives the care necessary to reverse the ravages of months of captivity and diabetes.

On March 30, Abu-Jamal fainted in the prison infirmary at the State Correctional Institution at Mahanoy in Frackville, Pa. He was rushed to a hospital in Pottsville, Pa., where he was diagnosed with diabetic shock. Although he had exhibited classic symptoms of diabetes and received three blood tests, prison doctors at SCI Mahanoy had never diagnosed or treated his condition.

Prison officials at first tried to keep family and supporters from visiting him but later relented after Abu-Jamal's supporters around the world flooded the prison superintendent and Department of Corrections' officials with thousands of calls. Demonstrators also protested outside the prison, at the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections and in several cities.

Abu-Jamal has lost over 30 pounds. He still has fluctuating blood sugar levels and suffers from severe eczema, which has left his skin hard and cracked. His condition is stable, but he is still weak and in a lot of pain. His life remains at risk as long as medical treatment is left in the hands of the same prison medical doctors whose negligence nearly killed him.

Prison officials are considering but have yet to approve Abu-Jamal's request to be seen by endocrinology, dermatology and dietary specialists of his choice.

Billions in profits for prison health care

Mumia's condition highlights the systemic neglect and abuse of prisoners in the burgeoning U.S. system of mass incarceration. It is also a clear violation of the Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which prohibits cruel and unusual punishment.

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that the state is to be held responsible for the medical care of inmates in its custody, enjoyed $48 million in government-guaranteed profits in 2014 and $40 million in 2013, according to Newsweek.

The coauthor of the report, Bethany Carson, said in a press statement: "The immigrant quota or the "bed mandate." The quota be-

Mumia Abu-Jamal

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In southwest Michigan
Justice denied for Civil Rights leader

By Abayomi Azikiwe

Read entire article at workers.org.

Another postconviction motions hearing took place on April 14 in St. Joseph, Mich., involving the conviction by an all-white jury of a Black youth who was barely 17 at the late last year of a leading Black Civil Rights activist, the REV. Edward Pinkney, who was denied justice by a corporate-controlled racist system in the southeast Michigan area.

REV. Pinkney, of the Black Autonomy Network Community Organization, was in jail in St. Joseph, the seat of Berrien County. Defense Attorney Tat Parish requested that handcuffs be removed from Pinkney. But Judge Sterling Stuck denied the request.

Judge Schrock continues to preside over the Pinkney case. The BANCO leader was convicted on five felony counts of forgery in 2014 involving the purported changing of dates on recall petitions designed to remove Benton Harbor Mayor Mayor James Hightower.

Schrock said removing the handcuffs was up to the discretion of the Michigan Department of Corrections. But no DOC officials were in the courtroom, since Pinkney had been transported to the Berrien County jail the night before the hearing from the Lakeland Correctional Facility in Coldwater, where he is being held on a sentence of 30 to 120 months.

Two motions resulted in decisions that clearly violate the civil rights of Pinkney, a long-time county organizer. One was filed before a prosecution motion request for financial restitution to Mayor Hightower due to purported harm to him by Pinkney during the recall campaign.

The judge ordered Pinkney to pay restitution to Mayor Hightower in the amount of $1,736.17, saying the politician suffered some emotional and psychological damage. Hightower did not even bother to appear in court, and prosecutor Michael Sepic, who submitted the motion, argued on his behalf.

Human Resources Director Susan Leach of Lakeland Hospital, where Hightower is employed, was subpoenaed by the defense to testify. She reported that Hightower is a salaried employee who did not lose any pay during the course of the recall proceedings.

The trial where he testified. Nonetheless, the court ruled against Pinkney.

The other motion by the defense requested a new trial based on the connection between juror Gail Freehland and the family of Berrien County Clerk Sharon Schrock. Freehland was a witness in the prosecution of Pinkney.

Relationships were clearly established through a series of witnesses called by the defense, constituting a clear conflict of interest. Prosecutor Sepic argued the defense arguments seeking to draw connections with Freehland and related matters. The persons involved in the trial were “preposterous” and no connections were established.

Defense attorney Parish replied that “there is every reason to suggest connections,” which were not disclosed during the pre-trial hearing.

Judge Schrock denied the motion for a new trial. He re-emphasized that Pinkney did not qualify for bond pending the outcome of his appeal, which is being filed to overturn his convictions on the felony charges.

A demonstration against Whirlpool products sold at Lowe’s in Southfield, Mich., is scheduled for April 24 to expose the role of the corporations in the police of Berrien County and southwest Michigan.

Thousands protest police terror

By LeiLani Dowell

Events were held around the country on April 14 to protest police terror under the theme of “Shut it down.” The militant actions, involving many youth activists and organizers, were violently repressed by the police in many areas. Among the cities where protests were held were Atlantic City; Chicago; Cleveland; Detroit; Ferguson, Mo.; Gainesville, Fla.; Greensboro, N.C.; Honolulu; Houston; and Los Angeles, Oakland, San Francisco, San Jose and Stockton in California.

In New York protesters, including many young of color, marched for hours from Union Square down Broadway and over the Brooklyn Bridge. They took over the vehicular side of the bridge even when cops tried to prevent them from doing so. Seventy-six people were arrested.

After walking out of school earlier in the day in Madison, Wis., and then en ga ging in a street protest with a large crowd of students, including high school students and youth, the protest day was also full of actions, including numerous of cultural and activities, youth and student protesters were peacefully assembl ing for an evening protest with their and surrounded by some investigators, from a need to protect the people who were watching. Despite the protest being peaceful, the police were violent in detaining the protesters and arresting them.

At least 10 protesters, including Young, Gifted and Black Coalition leader Brandy Grayson, were arrested and ticketed for municipal citations. Grayson was violently thrown to the ground and then dragged on her back by police officers. The protest demanded justice for Tony Robinson, a 19-year-old African-American youth who was shot dead by Madison cop Matt Kenney on March 6.

“This is a clear example of the state violence we have been talking about for months,” said Grayson. “They brutalized me, and they arrested our babies who were mourning and protesting against the police violence that led to the murder of our friends, Tony Robinson.”

UYB has also joined with the Coalition For Justice in Milwaukee to protest the murder of Donte Hamilton, along with organizations such as Wisconsin Jobs Now to demand living wages for low-wage workers and with unions to protest right-to-work-for-less laws.

Some in Wisconsin face some of the worst conditions in the U.S., including the highest per capita rate of black poverty, the highest mortality rates among the whites. Dozens of Black men and women have been killed by police in the last 10 years. The union-busting private prison industry, and other austerity laws implemented in the last few years are negatively impacting Black communities the worst.

Toni Aresten and the Milwaukee WW Bureau contributed to this report.
Day of Solidarity with Venezuela blasts U.S. threats

By Brenda Ryan

New York

Shooting, “Venezuela is not a threat! Recall the decree now!” activists rallied in Times Square on April 15 to demand that President Barack Obama keep U.S. hands off the Bolivarian revolution.

The protest was part of the “International Days of Solidarity with Venezuela” called in response to Obama’s declaration that Venezuela is a threat to U.S. security. In the U.S., in addition to New York City, demonstrations were held in Milwaukee, Buffalo, San Francisco and Detroit from April 11 through 19.

On March 5, Obama had issued an executive order calling Venezuela “an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States” and announcing that the U.S. would be levying sanctions on Venezuela under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act. 

Students in the protest noted the absurdity of this statement and pointed to the real threats people in this country face: police brutality, unemployment, low wages, poverty, and the lack of housing and education. They also noted the support that Venezuela has given to poor and working people in the U.S., including providing heating oil to people in the South Bronx and New England.

The U.S. demonstrators added their voices to the millions around the world speaking out in support of Venezuela. One speaker reported that Venezuela has collected 13 million signatures from people around the world calling on Obama to retract the executive order, which these millions consider a prelude to invasion.

On April 11, there was a “United Nations Day of Solidarity with Venezuela,” during which leaders from numerous countries condemned the U.S. decree and declared their solidarity with Cuba. And at the “Seventh Summit of the Americas” in Panama on April 10 and 11, Argentine President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, Bolivian President Evo Morales and Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa criticized the U.S.’s hostility to Venezuela and voiced support for Venezuela President Nicolás Maduro.

The U.S. government has been working to overturn the revolutionary prog- ress in Venezuela ever since the election of Hugo Chávez in 1998, when the new government began to improve dramatically the standard of living for the poorest people. Now President Madu- ro is carrying on this legacy, with the support of political and mass organizations in Venezuela.

In New York, people marched from Times Square to the statue of Simón Bolivar at 59th Street and 6th Avenue at the foot of Central Park. Bolivar, “the Liber- ator,” led the struggle that won indepen- dence for Bolivia, Panama, Colombia, Ecu-ador, Peru and Venezuela from Spain in the early 19th century.

In Buffalo, protesters gathered near Buffalo State College. Several people passing by stopped to express their appre- ciation for the rally and cars going by signaled their support.

The National Call for Solidarity was en- dorsed by the International Action Cen- ter, the Alberto Lovera Bolivarian Circle, the Alliance for Global Justice, the United National Anti-War Coalition, Honduran United People’s Movement, the 1st Coalition for Worker and Immigrant Rights.

In Milwaukee the protest on April 19 was sponsored by the Milwaukee An- ti-War Committee and supported by nu- merous labor-community organizations, including the Latin American Solidarity Committee, Fight Imperialism Stand Together, Freedom Road Socialist Organi- zation, Wisconsin Bail Out the People Movement and Workers World Party.

Detroit remembers Viola Liuzzo

By Joe Mchahwar

Detroit

In an era when many Civil Rights icons are unknown to youth, even those in the struggle, people are still working to keep alive the legacy of those who gave everything for freedom.

April 3 would have been the 50th birth- day of Detroit Civil Rights martyr Viola Gregg Liuzzo. A mother of five and a nursing student at Wayne State University, Liuzzo headed the call of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to organize in Selma, Ala., following the “Bloody Sunday” voting rights march.

Liuzzo was only in Selma for a few days when the Ku Klux Klan caught up with her. On March 21, 1965, Liuz- zo, who was white, and Leroy Moton, a 19-year-old African American, were shut- tling a group of students from Selma when a car full of Klan members maneuvered to drive them off the road. Shooting from their car, the racists hit Liuzzo twice in the head, killing her instantly. Moton was wounded and escaped the attackers.

One of the Klanmen involved in the terrorist attack was an FBI informant. The FBI then led a vicious smear cam- paign against Liuzzo and her family. Crosses were burned in front of her fami- ly’s home in Detroit.

On April 10 this year, Wayne State Uni- versity granted its first-ever posthumous degree to Liuzzo, an honorary juris (law) doctorate. WSU also placed a plaque on the campus in her memory and created a scholarship in her name at the School of Nursing. A park named after Liuzzo has been falling into disrepair for years, but a grassroots effort for its revitalization is now underway. Other events around the nation also marked Liuzzo’s birthday and contributions to the struggle.

Viola Liuzzo and other martyrs for jus- tice will continue to inspire generations of revolutionary youth. Liuzzo’s courage will be forever ingrained in Detroit’s con- sciousness.

Joe Mchahwar is a Detroit organizer with the revolutionary youth group FIST (Fight Imperialism, Stand Together).
Wisconsin budget audit

Teachers, students, parents march against cuts

By Workers World Milwaukee Bureau

Hundreds of members of the Milwaukee Teachers Education Association, students and community groups participated in Milwaukee April 18 to end cuts to K-12 and higher education, protest toxic testing and charter schools, and demand adequate resources and services for teachers, staff and communities.

The April 18 demonstration is part of a series of mass protests since December when Gov. Scott Walker unveiled his 2013-17 austerity budget. They are a continuation of the people’s occupation of the state Capitol in 2011. The effects of the 2013-2015 state budget, which included the largest cuts to public education in Wisconsin history, are now painfully felt in every city, town and village. The vast majority of the state’s poor and working people are demanding: Hands off public education!

The 2013-14 proposed austerity budget, like the previous one, attacks every sector of the working class and oppressed, including environmental and prevailing wage laws, unemployment insurance, FoodShare benefits, senior care, project labor agreements and public education. Wall Street organizations such as UW Students Against Cuts and WIBailoutpeople.org.

For more information, visit: savoursuwm.com, facebook.com/groups/UWStudentsAgainstCuts and wibailoutpeople.org.

Low-wage restaurant workers: ‘#StopTheOtherNRA’

Several hundred low-wage restaurant workers and their supporters took to the picket line of the U.S. capital on April 15 to rally against the National Restaurant Association, the lobbying group pushing to keep 11 million tipped workers making poverty wages. The protest, organized by Restaurant Opportunities Centers United and its Coalition to #StopTheOtherNRA, included a pop-up “restaurant” that blocked four busy intersections in the D.C. metro area to protest budleods of NRA lobbyists from meeting with policymakers. The NRA, whose membership includes McDonald’s and other Fortune 500 corporate bigwigs, lobbies against initiatives to raise the tipped minimum wage (a measly $2.13 an hour since 1991) to the federal minimum wage and give workers much-needed paid sick days.

Protesters called for “One Fair Wage” for all workers. That would help tipped workers, about 80 percent of whom are women, nearly half of whom live in or near poverty, according to the ROC United report released April 14.

Equal Pay Day, April 14

On Equal Pay Day, women’s, civil rights and labor groups observed that women work 10.5 days longer -- until April 14 -- to earn what men earned the previous year. A study published that day by the National Partnership for Women and Families said, “A flagrant disparity exists against all women workers, whose pay averages just 78 cents for every dollar earned by men. This gender-, class- and nationality-based inequality stems from the fact that over time, wages in all jobs, careers and professions, from the lowest paid to the highest. But, the study shows, it falls hardest on mothers who work full time, who are paid “just” 71 cents for every dollar paid to fathers who work full time around.

Single mothers are paid just 68 cents for every dollar paid to fathers. And African-American and Latina mothers suffer the biggest disparity of any group: 67 cents, respectively, for every dollar paid to white, non-Hispanic fathers.” This causes, says NPWF President Debra L. Ness, “real and lasting damage to women, families, communities and our nation.” (nationalpartnership.org, April 14)

What’s the solution? Fight for a living wage for all -- just as thousands of workers did the next day!

Bus drivers vote to unionize

Bus drivers on both coasts have organized successful union drives. Double-decker tour bus drivers for Go New York Tours elected to join Transport Workers Union Local 100 in a landslide vote on April 14. TWU Local 100 now represents over 40,000 drivers in New York City. Among the drivers’ grievances are low wages and denial of bathroom and lunch breaks. (NYDailyNews.com, April 14)

The Teamsters welcomed shuttle bus drivers from five major Silicon Valley, Calif., tech companies on Feb. 17. Drivers at Yahoo, Apple, Genentech, eBay and Amazon organized, according to the Si Valley News.com, Feb. 27)

Darigold dairy poisons drinking water

On Jan. 14, a U.S. District Court found that Cow Palace, a dairy supplier in the multibillion-dollar Darigold consortuium headquartered in Seattle, poisoned the drinking water of thousands of people in Washington’s Yakima Valley. The court found that Darigold consistently ignored U.S. Department of Agriculture recommendations for safe storage and use of cow manure in agricultural fields. As a result, it is estimated that millions of gallons of manure leaked into the residential water supply, endangering as many as 24,000 people. Risks of exposure include cancer, heart disease and stroke.

In a related incident, a Cow Palace dairy worker drowned on Feb. 24 after his truck toppled into a cow manure storage reservoir that had been improperly secured. The United Farm Workers is asking supporters to email Darigold CEO Jim Wegner to demand adequate safety protocols. See the link under Take Action on ufw.org.

Victory for bakery worker

Morima Ortiz and others had been picketing Kenny’s Bakery in northern Manhattan for over a year. Ortiz worked there for eight years and says she experienced wage theft and verbal and physical abuse while being paid below the minimum wage. With the help of the Laundry Workers Center, Ortiz won her legal claim. Supporters celebrated her victory on April 13 in front of Liberato restaurant, whose workers are still fighting for their rights.

— Report and photo by Catherine Zeitz

PHOTO: MILWAUKEE TEACHERS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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What’s the solution? Fight for a living wage for all -- just as thousands of workers did the next day!

Bus drivers vote to unionize

Bus drivers on both coasts have organized successful union drives. Double-decker tour bus drivers for Go New York Tours elected to join Transport Workers Union Local 100 in a landslide vote on April 14. TWU Local 100 now represents over 40,000 drivers in New York City. Among the drivers’ grievances are low wages and denial of bathroom and lunch breaks. (NYDailyNews.com, April 14)

The Teamsters welcomed shuttle bus drivers from five major Silicon Valley, Calif., tech companies on Feb. 17. Drivers at Yahoo, Apple, Genentech, eBay and Amazon organized, according to the Si Valley News.com, Feb. 27)

Darigold dairy poisons drinking water

On Jan. 14, a U.S. District Court found that Cow Palace, a dairy supplier in the multibillion-dollar Darigold consortuium headquartered in Seattle, poisoned the drinking water of thousands of people in Washington’s Yakima Valley. The court found that Darigold consistently ignored U.S. Department of Agriculture recommendations for safe storage and use of cow manure in agricultural fields. As a result, it is estimated that millions of gallons of manure leaked into the residential water supply, endangering as many as 24,000 people. Risks of exposure include cancer, heart disease and stroke.

In a related incident, a Cow Palace dairy worker drowned on Feb. 24 after his truck toppled into a cow manure storage reservoir that had been improperly secured. The United Farm Workers is asking supporters to email Darigold CEO Jim Wegner to demand adequate safety protocols. See the link under Take Action on ufw.org.

Victory for bakery worker

Morima Ortiz and others had been picketing Kenny’s Bakery in northern Manhattan for over a year. Ortiz worked there for eight years and says she experienced wage theft and verbal and physical abuse while being paid below the minimum wage. With the help of the Laundry Workers Center, Ortiz won her legal claim. Supporters celebrated her victory on April 13 in front of Liberato restaurant, whose workers are still fighting for their rights.

— Report and photo by Catherine Zeitz

PHOTO: MILWAUKEE TEACHERS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
Low-wage workers in the tens of thousands, in 263 cities and towns, went on strike from coast to coast on April 15 for $15 an hour and union representation without retaliation, fighting for $15 an hour and union representation in the workers’ struggle in the U.S. Joining by protests in 40 countries on five continents -- from San Paulo, Brazil, to Seoul, Amsterdam to Auckland, New Zealand; Toronto to Tokyo — April 15 represents an emerging global movement against low wages.

Nothing like this upsurge of working-class protest has been seen in the U.S. since the national May Day demonstration in 2006, led by thousands of migrants from many nations.

Organizers deliberately called the nationwide protest on April 15, Tax Day, to emphasize that taxpayers subsidize mega-billion-dollar imperialist giants like McDonald’s and Walmart that pay workers poverty wages. A study, released April 13 by the Labor Center at the University of California Berkeley, reports $135 billion for such public assistance as food stamps, Medicaid and housing subsidies is needed to sustain underpaid working families.

A report by the National Employment Law Project, also released April 13, found nearly half the U.S. workforce (42 percent) makes less than $15 an hour. Women and people of color are disproportionately represented in the underpaid workforce, with over 90 percent of African-American workers and nearly 60 percent of Latino/a workers making less than $15.

Three more layers broaden struggle

Workers in the fast food industry started this struggle two and a half years ago. This time sectors were also on board to work together across industries and districts, from Atlanta to Los Angeles. In addition to members of community and faith-based groups and unionized workers proudly showing solidarity, three more groups came out, some for the first time: workers in other low-wage jobs, activists in the Black Lives Matter movement and students.

Legions of underpaid, unorganized home care and child care workers, car washers, adjunct and graduate student teachers, retail and dollar store clerks, unorganized construction laborers, airport service and laundry workers, and all kinds of part-time, temporary and contract workers joined the Fight for $15.

For the first time, manufacturing workers joined the strike. Members of the United Electrical Workers Local 110 in Whitakers, N.C., who work at the Cummins Inc. Rocky Mount Engine Plant, held a press conference to announce their support for Fight for $15: "Thousands of manufacturing workers, including over 100 RMEP workers, are making less than $15 an hour and noting struggles in many cities and states to boost their minimum wage. President Obama has advocated. We are also fighting against companies’ violating our union rights.” (UE release)

Voting spontaneously to walk off the job in Chicago were a group of about 50 unorganized drivers and security guards at Bratik’s, the global security company. They’ve fed up because the company recently reduced their contribution to their 401(k); now pays for only five hours of overtime, though they often put in 60- to 80-hour weeks; and new messengers and drivers make less than $15, while United Postal Service and FedEx workers make over $20 an hour. (In These Times, April 15)

African-American youth linked the Black Lives Matter movement to the low-wage struggle. A banner headline on the Facebook page of Fast Food Forward proclaims: "Economic justice is racial justice." Dramatic links were made when early-month demonstrators in Brooklyn, N.Y., picketed a McDonald’s wearing T-shirts reading, "I can’t breathe, Fight for $15." And a die-in was staged at noon in front of a McDonald’s on the Upper West Side of Manhattan for four minutes and 15 seconds — to symbolize the struggle.

“We joined the Fight for $15 because, for us, racial justice is economic justice,” said Charkene A. Carruthers, national director of Black Youth 100. “We believe that Black workers have paid undeserved debts to greedy corporations for far too long.” Her nonprofit organization started the Black Work Matters campaign, also known as Fight for $15. (Common Dreams, April 15)

After demonstrating in Memphis, more than 200 workers and students, joined by forces from Little Rock, Tenn., board-chartered buses and several small vans for the five-hour drive to join the Fight for $15 action in Ferguson, Mo.

College and university students came out in droves, driven by the burden of student loans and foreseeing a debt-ridden future. “It’s important for students to be involved,” said Robert Ackerman, a student activist from New York University, “because even if we aren’t working for McDonald’s or Walmart, we are still on McDonald’s or Walmart type of wages.” Even now, some students have to choose between buying food or buying textbooks.

Mary Kay Henry, Service Employees International president, said that students on 270 campuses were expected to join the struggle. On a recent tour of six colleges, she “saw students everywhere on fire to fight for their future and link arms with these workers ... to change this low-wage econony.”

Even the Wall Street Journal, the ruling-class mouthpiece, ran an article April 15 stating that though $15 an hour for fast food workers "seems a real stretch" ... [it] "may not be such a reach," citing cities like Seattle and San Francisco where workers are now making $15 an hour and noting struggles in many cities and states to boost their minimum wage.

The working-class genie that popped out of the capitalist bottle on April 15 — asserting the collective might of a determined working class — cannot be shoved back into that bottle.

Coverage of April 15 actions by WW activists in cities around the country is posted on workers.org.

Dock workers to ‘shut it down’

Dock workers to ‘shut it down’

Continued from page 1

continue to stand up and speak out against injustice in any form, whether it is racial profiling, racial discrimination or, as in this case, racial homicide.” (www.launtown.org/news)

The South Carolina AFL-CIO thanked ILWU Local 10 for its solidarity: “You supply courage to the members of the ILWU who are marching on the docks and die-ins, from Atlanta to Los Angeles. In addition to members of community and faith-based groups and unionized workers proudly showing solidarity, three more groups came out, some for the first time: workers in other low-wage jobs, activists in the Black Lives Matter movement and students.

The ILWU’s 1971 Convention “voiced strong support for all the people who work for a living, and because public education! Stop the wars and repression!” ILWU’s policy statement outlined the following: “We believe that workers have paid undeserved debts to greedy corporations for far too long.” Her nonprofit organization started the Black Work Matters campaign, also known as Fight for $15. (Common Dreams, April 15)

Dock workers to ‘shut it down’

Dock workers to ‘shut it down’

Dock workers to ‘shut it down’
As U.S. troops arrive in Ukraine
Opponents of coup regime are murdered

By Greg Butterfield

April 20 — In just four days in mid-April, three well-known critics of the U.S.-backed Ukrainian junta were murdered in the capital city Kiev. These deaths followed more than a dozen other such killings of whistleblowers and alleged suicides of regime opponents.

The three killed were former parliamentary deputy Oleg Kalashnikov and journalists Sergei Sukhobok and Oles Buzina.

Immediately after Buzina's death near his home in Kiev on April 16, Ukrainian Interior Minister Arsen Avakov posted on his Facebook page: “Everyone who was involved in the organization and financing of Antimaidan or other unlawful acts against Maidan and feels a threat to their life, please contact the law enforcement agencies, so as not to follow the path of Kalashnikov and Buzina.” (mk.ru) In other words: Turn yourself in or be killed.

Buzina was the pro-imperialist, anti-communist opponent of Maidan, so as not to follow the path of Antimaidan and parliamentarian deputy Anton Gerashchenko posted on his Facebook page: “The first thing to be done is ‘to get to Europe — they don’t have the money to even start. But for young Africans who want to up the ante in its proxy struggles against Iran and its allies.

The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) estimates that 1.6 million Syrians are refugees from the violent civil war that followed the revolution of 2011. UNHCR says, “The first thing” to be done “is to try to get a government of national unity in Libya.” (AP, April 19)

But it was the French and British air forces, with connoisseurs and intelligence support from the US Pentago, that in 2011 destroyed Libya's infrastructure and opened the road for local warlords to compete for booty. Before the imperialists overthrew the government led by Moammar Gadhafi, Libya had the highest standard of living in Africa and attracted 180,000 Africans to Libya in 2011 destroyed Libya's infrastructure and opened the road for local warlords to compete for booty. U.S./NATO bombs Libya in 2011.

Repression mounts

The assassination campaign takes place in the context of three key political developments: The April 10 ban on communist propaganda, symbols and “glorification of Soviet history” enacted by the Verkhovna Rada, or parliament; a law April 17 enshrining as “freedom fighters” ultralight Ukrainian nationalist groups that collaborated with Nazi Germany during World War II and the CIA during the Cold War; and the arrival of U.S. troops on Ukrainian soil.

Some 290 commandos of the U.S. Army’s 173rd Airborne Division arrived April 17 in Lvov, western Ukraine, after what Russian media called a military parade of hundreds of kilometers from Italy through Eastern Europe. Along with British, Canadian and Polish commandos, these U.S. troops are to provide training to the Ukrainian National Guard, a body created after the Maidan coup to incorporate fascist gangs into the state apparatus.

U.S. forces are to drill with the Azov Battalion, which is dominated by the neo-Nazi Right Sector movement. The battalion has been accused of numerous human rights violations in the junta's brutal war against the independent Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics of the Donbass mining region.

Pavel Khilik, chief negotiator for Donetok, said of the U.S. troops' arrival: “This is a conscious policy. In combination with the moving up of military equipment [Kiev’s build up of heavy weapons in violation of the Minsk II ceasefire], this is meant to escalate the conflict.” (Novoros- sia Today, April 17)

The Azov Battalion has embraced its new official relationship with Washington. Correspondent.net posted photographs on April 16, obtained from the Associated Press, of Azov forces near the occupied city of Mariupol in the Donetok People’s Republic. They are shown flying the U.S. flag alongside those of Ukraine and the Right Sector.

When Right Sector forces destroyed a monument of Soviet leader V.I. Lenin in occupied Kramatorsk on April 17, a ma- teur video showed the fascists flying the U.S. flag.

Right Sector and other Nazi groups marched through the center of Odessa, a multinational port city in southeastern Ukraine, on April 17 chanting, “Great Ukraine is for the white man,” “One race,” “Hang the communists,” according to Odessa’s dumskaya.net. The march was escorted by the police.

The same day, at a protest against utility rate hikes and pension cuts, 53 opposition activists were arrested and detained by police, aided by Right Sector and Maidan goons. (rusvets.ru, April 17)

One year ago, on May 2, 2014, neo-Nazi Znis, including members of the Azov bat- talion, massacred at least 48 anti-fascists at the House of Trade Unions.

Refugees crisis in Mediterranean

By G. Dunkel

A ship with 700 refugees on board capsized south of the Italian island of Lampedusa in Libyan waters on April 18. Witnesses said the undersea earthquake that hit the Mediterranean, killing over 400, triggered a violent human rights violations in the junta’s brutal war against the independent Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics of the Donbass mining region. The conflict has been characterized by human rights violations on both sides.

The June 10 ban on communism and its junior partner France are among the few to control Africa, they take the chance.

Greece, Turkey and the Mideast

The UNHCR estimates that 4 million Syrians are refugees from the violent civil war that followed the uprisings of 2011 in Syria. These uprisings were the result of the Arab Spring, which overthrew the regimes of Tunisia and Yemen. Syria's neighbors, Turkey and Jordan, have fomented, instigated and manipulated.

The Europe, its strategy of dealing with this crisis has been characterized by arms deliveries to the Libyan state has reversed that. The June 10 ban on communism and its junior partner France are among the few to control Africa, they take the chance.

Refugees in eastern Turkey appear to be taking a different route. Some smugglers offer to ship refugees to Greece, but often the Turkish coast guard intercepts them and sends the ships towards Italy. The captain and crew abandon the ship after leaving it on autopilot, trusting that the Italian coast guard will intercept it before there is an accident. (New York Times, Feb. 2)
Workers get paid for only part of the time they work during the week. But they must work the whole week. Usually they get paid just enough to stay alive while they are working, so there is no incentive to keep what they create during the entire week. The boss sells the product or service for money and profits from this surplus -- the unpaid labor time the workers put in.

Every year tens of millions of potential workers enter the workforce around the world. If the capitalist system is to function, workers must grow fast enough to employ, that is, to exploit these new workers, as well as to employ the workers already in the workforce, then mass unemployment, part-time and temporary jobs steadily expand with population growth.

When more and more unemployed workers are seeking scarce jobs, which comes with low growth, the bosses can hire at lower and lower wages -- unless the workers have a union, a good contract and are organized to defend their rights.

**Karl Marx as a guide for today**

This was all explained by Karl Marx over 150 years ago. He wrote for the working class and for those who wanted to organize against capitalism. His analysis is highly important for understanding what the bosses are doing today.

In the U.S., the capitalist class has been struggling on the ground its profits of production since the global financial and economic crisis of 2007-09 ended. To be sure, they are specialized in parts of bank-


The millions whose jobs have been eliminated through technology and speed-up now swell the “reserve army of unemployed” that Marx referred to a century and a half ago. Again this is a global matter.

The ILO reported: “Almost 202 million workers are organized to defend their rights. When the bosses become gloomy about their economies, they organize a massive pushback is now. But it is clear that world capitalism has grown enormously in recent years.

The capitalist economies are expanding anemically, while Japan and Europe are stagnating at best. The Greek debt crisis is caused by a bank run led by US and European bankers try to force further austerity on Greece’s Syriza government. Wages about a Greek default, which could destabilize the eurozone, haunted the G-20 meeting.

Behind this condition of slow growth and stagnation is capital overproduc-


Low-Wage Capitalism

The finance ministers of the largest capitalist economies exuded gloom and pessimism at the recent Washington meeting of the G-20. “Six years after tackling the global financial crisis, the world’s economic policy makers are struggling to exit crisis-management mode and lift growth out of a long-term funk,” wrote the Wall Street Journal on April 10.

The underlying concern was that since the so-called “recovery” began in 2009, the global economy has been in a steady state of slow growth and stagnation.

The International Monetary Fund is- sued warnings about so-called “emerging markets.” China had its lowest growth in 10 years. Russia is in a recession. Bra-


What the new globlized world capitalism

The working class, the labor move-


The working class is experiencing today.

What Marx warned the workers about 150 years ago:

• Intensification of exploitation of the workers.

• Lowering wages to below subsistence.

• Mass unemployment or increasing the reserve army of unemployed.

• Promoting foreign trade to gain additional profits abroad.

These are the very measures that the working class is experiencing today.
Next year will mark the 130th anniversary of the founding of May Day. Also known as International Workers Day, May Day is still commemorated more commonly around the world — with demonstrations, protests, strikes and other militant actions worldwide — than where it originated: in the United States.

On May 1, American Federation of Labor organized militant actions demanding the right of all workers to an eight-hour day. On that day, workers walked off their jobs and withheld their labor from being exploited by the bosses.

Martha Grevatt, a long-time Chrysler autoworker wrote about the history of May Day: “About a quarter of a million took part in many, many cities, with its militant, left-wing labor movements and communist parties.”

There, tens of thousands laid down their tools, and women and men poured into the streets. The demonstrations continued past May 1, and on May 3 police attacked and six workers were killed.

The next day a protest over the killings was held in Homan Square. A bomb was thrown, a policeman was killed, and a struggle broke out that left seven police and 10 workers dead. Eighty-six shop stewards, leaders were convicted of murder, five of them sentenced to death. Four were hanged and one reportedly committed suicide. The others were eventually pardoned.” (workers.org, March 23, 2012) Those who were hanged became known as the Haymarket Martyrs.

Fast forward to Philadelphia, May 13, 1985, when a powerful bomb was dropped from a State Police helicopter on the home of the MOVE members. It was an incendiary fire that caused the horrific deaths of 11 MOVE members, including children, and the massive destruction of at least 60 homes in the area. Seventeen people were eventually killed. (workers.org, March 23, 2012) Those who were hanged became known as the Haymarket Martyrs.

In Haymarket Square, unarmed workers fighting for a larger piece of the value they create, in the form of livable wages and better working conditions, were fighting for a brighter future under capitalism.

To its credit, the May 1 Coalition for Worker and Immigrant Rights is holding a major May Day rally and march in New York City’s Union Square, demanding: “From Ferguson to Ayotzinapa to NYC: No more police terror; we want jobs, $15 an hour and a union; end militarization and occupation, has proven time and again to be an efficacious way to eradicate this antagonism in order to fulfill the needs of humanity.

The state, which exists under capitalism to serve the greed for profits of the corporations and banks, has proven time and time again that it is no friend of the workers and oppressed peoples, who are the vast majority on the planet but suffer in the billions from unmet human needs. This massive suffering has become exacerbated by the global economic crisis that erupted in 2007.

Hasn’t the time come for the people to demand that the state be disarmed and eventually abolished, along with the rotten capitalist system that it serves? In the spirit of International Workers Day, which calls for a peaceful transition of the entire working class, Workers World responds with a resounding: YES!

**Vietnam 40 Years after Liberation Visitors flock to the tunnels of Cu Chi**

Ho Chi Minh City, known as Saigon before its liberation, is a fast-moving metropolis of more than 8 million people. Proclamations for April 30, the 40th anniversary of the unification of north and south Vietnam and the decisive defeat of the U.S. invasion and occupation, can be seen all over the country.

Flags of Vietnam and the Vietnamese Communist Party fly everywhere. Billboards announcing the anniversary abound. Hundreds of exuberant children gather in a downtown park rehearsing for commemoration ceremonies and posting for photos. However, no place in Vietnam more embodies the revolutionary heroism that made this victory possible than this small suburb of Ho Chi Minh City. The guerrilla tunnels of Cu Chi District tested the determination of a people to win their independence against a foe far superior in technology but far inferior in motivation, morale, creativity and sheer determination to resist.

The tunnels have been preserved and turned into a national museum. Cu Chi District’s proximity to Saigon, where the U.S. and its puppet forces were based, made it a center of anti-war activity.

No more police terror; we want jobs, $15 an hour and a union; end militarization and occupation, has proven time and again to be an efficacious way to eradicate this antagonism in order to fulfill the needs of humanity.

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**MARXISM, REPRESSION & the Black Freedom Struggle**

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper. Edited by Monica Moorehead.

**Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination**

Larry Holmes

Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery

Sam Mardy

Black Youth: Repression & Resistance in America

The Struggle for Socialism Is Key

Monica Moorehead

Domestic Workers United Demand Passage of a Bill of Rights for Domestic Workers

Black & Brown Unity: A Pillar of Struggle for Human Rights & Global Justice

Saladin Muhammad

Marisol Tumhaya and Laila Abu-Lam

Racism & Poverty in the Delta

Larry Hales

Haiti Needs Reparations, Not Sanctions

Pat Chin

Alabama’s Black Belt: Legacy of Slavery, Sharecropping & Segregation

Comandante Leopoldo Fuentes

Women Warrior: The Woman Behind the kayak

John Parker

Available online and at other bookstores.
By Kathy Durkin

The struggle for justice and compensation for the Rana Plaza workers is far from over two years after the deadliest disaster in garment industry history.

On April 24, 2013, a building housing several factories collapsed outside Dhaka, Bangladesh, killing 1,138 workers, mostly young women, and injuring 2,500 others. It was the deadliest incident involving unsafe factory working conditions that has ever occurred in Bangladesh, and possibly in the world. The death toll included the Ugandan government, as well as the sub-commission gotiators from FARC-EP and the Colombian government, as well as the sub-commission, 3) illegal drugs, 4) rights of the internally displaced, the majority women workers. The delegation agreed that the peace talk concerning the Urgent need to sign the Comprehensive rural development, 2) political participation, 3) illegal drugs, 4) rights of victims and 5) the end of the conflict. The negotiators have reached partial agreement on the first three items. The current round of negotiations is addressing items four and five. The delegation met separately with negotiators from FARC-EP and the Colombian government, as well as the sub-committees on gender and on victims. They also met with representatives of the two guarantor countries — Norway and Cuba. As a result, the delegations are now informed about the process of the negotiations. Estimates of the victims of the conflict range from 1.5 million to over 6 million. More than 90,000 people have disappeared, over 220,000 have been killed, 80 percent of them civilians, and as many as 6 million people have been internally displaced, the majority women and children.

The U.N. has estimated that paramilitaries with ties to the government and transnational corporate actors have committed over 80 percent of the casualties. The delegation agreed that the peace process must go forward. According to inspiring Pamela Brehm, “We have been convinced, after a week of intense discussions, of the urgent need to implement a bilateral ceasefire between the negotiating parties.” Martha Grevatt spoke for the group saying, “We stand in solidarity with the people of Colombia — women, campesinos, students, unionists. The CFRT — who have come together in organizations and movements with a vision of a new Colombia, built on a foundation of equality, social justice and a lasting peace. This is what the majority in Colombia wants.”
Sobre Cuba, Irán, Ucrania: Obama, un centrista, cede a la derecha

Por Fred Goldstein

Los vericuetos de la política exterior de Barack Obama, desde Cuba a Irán, desde Baráda hasta la hervida América Latina, la derecha, la izquierda y las masas oprimidas han expresado la amenaza que representa este estadounidense. La izquierda de Obama de abrir relaciones con Cuba es un ejemplo clásico de que la política exterior de Estados Unidos ha flaqueado en su articulación con el capitalismo estadounidense.

La iniciativa de Obama de abrir relaciones con Cuba es un ejemplo clásico de que la política exterior de Estados Unidos ha flaqueado en su articulación con el capitalismo estadounidense. La política exterior de Estados Unidos ha sido una serie de errores y subestimaciones que han socavado la confianza en el gobierno de Obama.

En el caso de Cuba, Obama decidió abrir relaciones con Cuba en 2015, dando un paso significativo hacia la normalización de relaciones entre los dos países. Esta decisión fue vista como un paso significativo hacia la normalización de relaciones entre los dos países.

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